



10th May 2021

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Mr. Paul Donnelly TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Head of Service Mental Health,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 D8H0.

PQ Ref: 24489/21 -To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider increasing funding for a counselling service (details supplied) to ensure that it can respond effectively to the mental health crisis following the Covid-19 pandemic -Paul Donnelly

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The 2021 budget allocation for Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (DNCC) Mental Health services has already been allocated to provide a range of services that include Tertiary Acute Inpatient Services and Secondary Specialist Community Mental Health Services for Adult and Paediatrics. Some of the additional service developments for 2021 include an additional team for the Mental Health Homeless Service and Adult Eating Disorder Team.

In order to make an application for additional funding, Genesis need to submit a formal business case setting out the evidence based need for their application, the nature of the service proposed, clear service activity targets and the level of funding required. All requests for additional funding are carefully considered as part of the service planning process and must be in line with the HSE Corporate Plan and the identified needs of the population we serve.

In terms of wider mental health supports available to those across Dublin North City and County, the enclosed leaflet provides information and contact details for many of these. Within Dublin 15, nine hours of support are provided by Genesis Counselling which is funded through HSE CHO DNCC Social Inclusion through a Grant Aid Agreement. This is a common practice that is utilised by Social Inclusion/Addiction Services to see hard to reach clients. The addiction patient cohort in Blanchardstown is well resourced as HSE Social Inclusion also funds eight other agencies to provide drug and alcohol work including counselling in the Dublin 15 area. Following a review of the Blanchardstown Task Force area in 2019, HSE Social Inclusion it was determined that the area is well resourced for drug, alcohol and family support services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Walsh
Head of Service Mental Health
CHO Dublin North City & County